

Spring 1-15-2006

# ENG 2601-001: Backgrounds of the Western Culture

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## Recommended Citation

Raybin, David, "ENG 2601-001: Backgrounds of the Western Culture" (2006). *Spring 2006*. 73.  
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2601-001

**English 2601.001: Backgrounds of the Western Literature**

Spring 2006

Instructor: **David Raybin**

Office: **324 Coleman Hall**

Office Hours: **Tu** 9:30-11:30; **W** 9-10, 11-12 (and by appointment)

Telephone: **581-6980** (office); **330/678-2628** (home, weekends before 8:30)

Electronic Mail: **draybin@eiu.edu**

Texts: Bloch and Bloch, trans., *The Song of Songs*  
Boccaccio, *Decameron*  
Cervantes, *Don Quixote*  
Chrétien de Troyes, *The Complete Romances of Chrétien de Troyes*  
Homer, *The Iliad*  
Marie de France, *The Lais of Marie de France*  
Rabelais, *Gargantua and Pantagruel*  
Wilkie and Hurt, *Literature of the Western World*, Vol. 1, 5<sup>th</sup> ed.

**Schedule of Readings and Assignments**

January 10: Introduction to the Course

**I. The Ancient World: Greece, Israel, and Rome**

12: Homer, *The Iliad*, Bk 1-6

17: *The Iliad*, Books 7-12

19: *The Iliad*, Books 13-18

24: *The Iliad*, Books 19-24

26: Homer, *The Odyssey*, Books 1-6 (in *Literature of the Western World*)

31: *The Odyssey*, Books 7-12

February 2: *The Odyssey*, Books 13-18

7: *The Odyssey*, Books 19-24

**\*\* Essay #1 Due \*\***

9: No Class: Conferences

14: Aeschylus, *Agamemnon* (in *Literature of the Western World*)

16: Sophocles, *Oedipus the King* (in *Literature of the Western World*)

21: Aristophanes, *Lysistrata* (in *Literature of the Western World*)

23: *The Song of Songs*

28: Virgil, *The Aeneid*, Books 1-3 (in *Literature of the Western World*)

March 2: Virgil, *The Aeneid*, Books 4-12

7: Ovid, *Metamorphoses*, selections (in *Literature of the Western World*)

**\*\* Essay #2 Due \*\***

**II. The European Middle Ages and Renaissance**

9: Chrétien de Troyes, *The Knight of the Cart*

14: Spring

16: Recess

March 21: Marie de France, *Lais*, pp. 1-136  
 23: Marie de France, *Lais*, pp. 137-233  
 28: Dante, *Inferno*, Cantos 1-8 (in Literature of the Western World)  
 30: *Inferno*, Cantos 9-17

April 4: *Inferno*, Cantos 18-30  
 6: *Inferno*, Cantos 31-34  
 \*\* Essay #3 Due \*\*

11: Boccaccio, *Decameron*, pp. 1-72  
 13: Boccaccio, *Decameron*, pp. 73-147

18: Rabelais, *Gargantua and Pantagruel*, selections  
 20: Cervantes, *Don Quixote*, selections

25: Cervantes, *Don Quixote*, selections  
 27: The Canon and Review

May 4: **Final Examination:** 8:00-10:00 a.m.

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### Course Requirements and Grading

Final grades will be determined on a 100-point scale:

Essays	45 points
Quizzes/Exams	25 points
Final Exam	25 points
Participation	5 points

**Course Grade:** A = 91-100; B = 82-90.99; C = 73-81.99; D = 65-72.99; F = below 65

**Essays:** Your essays should each be about **4 pages** (ca. 1000-1200 words). Grading will be based on what you have to say and how well you say it.

**Quizzes:** Frequent quizzes are intended to encourage you to read thoughtfully for each class session.

### Course/University Policies

**Typing.** All essays must be typed (double-spaced with one-inch margins).

**Honor Policy.** Education depends on trust. Should you cheat and I find out about it, you can expect to fail the course. The University may take additional action.

**Plagiarism.** If you use other people's words or ideas without citing your sources and indicating when you have quoted, you risk failing an assignment or even the course depending on how serious I deem the offense. If you are not sure what plagiarism is, or whether a particular use of language constitutes plagiarism, ask me before you turn in an assignment.

**Students with Disabilities.** "If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible."